

5-1-1938

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Recommended Citation

Arndt, W. (1938) "Book Review. - Literatur," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 9 , Article 38.
Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol9/iss1/38>

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Book Review — Literatur

Das Zwölfprophetenbuch. Von Alfred Jepsen. Gustav Schöbmanns Verlagsbuchhandlung (Gustav Fied), Leipzig und Hamburg. 200 Seiten 5¼×8. Preis: Kartoniert, RM. 3.20; gebunden, RM. 4.20.

Ausgewählte Psalmen. Übersetzt und ausgelegt von Jakob Krüder. Derselbe Verlag. 158 Seiten 5¼×8. Preis: Kartoniert, RM. 2.80; gebunden, RM. 3.70.

Dies sind zwei weitere Bände in der Serie „Bibelhilfe für die Gemeinde“, und es gilt von ihnen etwa dasselbe, was wir schon von den andern Auslegungen dieser Serie gesagt haben. Die Übersetzung ist unsers Erachtens das Wichtigste an dem ganzen Werk, und das gilt sonderlich von dem ersten Buch. Vielen der Ausführungen können wir leider nicht beistimmen, wie der zweifelhaften Beschreibung des Wunders in 2 Kön. 18, 19 (S. 14), dem Hinweis auf einen zweiten Sacharja (S. 17), der Vermutung, daß das Danklied Jona 2, 3—10 eine spätere Einfügung sei (S. 109; vgl. S. 199). Im übrigen ist die Auslegung ziemlich annehmbar. Dies gilt in noch höherem Maß von dem Kommentar Krüders. Aber auch hier haben wir auszusagen, daß der Verfasser manchmal Ansichten zu Papier bringt, die sicherlich nicht auf objektiven Tatsachen und nüchternem Studium beruhen, wie wenn er sagt, daß der Hinweis auf Ps. 2 in Apost. 4, 25 auf „einer falschen Überlieferung“ beruhe (S. 7), wenn er Ps. 40 nicht ohne Rückhalt als messianisch behandelt, wenn er Ps. 110 durchaus mit einer geschichtlichen Begebenheit in Davids Leben verbinden will, anstatt ihn einfach als eine Weissagung auf den Messias zu behandeln. Aber der aufmerksame Leser wird diese Stellen bald ausmerzen können und dann um so mehr Gewinn von den guten Teilen der Darlegung haben.

P. E. K r e t z m a n n

The Parables of the Gospels and Their Meaning for Today. By Hugh Martin. The Abbingdon Press, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago. 251 pages, 5×7½. Price, \$2.00. May be ordered through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

This discussion of the parables of our Lord my readers will find useful. In simple fashion the author, a Baptist minister trained in Scotland and now living in England, a former assistant secretary of the Student Christian Movement, considers first the general subject of parables and their interpretation and then the individual parables. His object, as he says (p. 31), is to give a popular expository treatment of the parables. Their text is printed at the beginning of the chapters in which they are interpreted; the version there employed is that of Moffatt, while in general the Authorized Version is used by the author. In speaking of the exposition of parables, it is urged that the context, the central theme, and the teller of the parable be borne in mind — considerations which are extremely important. To quote but one sentence of a number of apt ones: “A parable has in it one truth and not necessarily every truth” (p. 27). I regret to see that the author does not rise to the heights of full appreciation of the Scriptures, acknowledging them as the inerrant Word of God (cf. p. 35).

W. ARNDT

Das Neue Testament Deutsch. Neues Göttinger Bibelwerk. In Verbindung mit andern Gelehrten herausgegeben von Paul Althaus und Johannes Behm. 2. Teilbändchen: Das Evangelium nach Matthäus, übersetzt und erklärt von Julius Schniewind. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen. 1937. 274 Seiten 6×9. Preis: Fürs Ausland RM. 7.20; bei Subscription RM. 6.

Gern bringen wir das Erscheinen auch dieses Bandes in dem in vieler Hinsicht trefflichen Göttinger Kommentar, der den Namen trägt „Das Neue Testament Deutsch“, zur Anzeige. Wie unsern Lesern in Erinnerung sein wird, haben wir an den schon erschienenen Bänden, die mit dem jetzigen das ganze Neue Testament umfassen, die Übersetzung gelobt, die kernig und wohlklingend ist, sobald die bei aller Knappheit doch hochgradige Vollständigkeit der erläuternden Bemerkungen. Dieser Band reiht sich seinen Vorgängern würdig an und zeigt dieselben Vorzüge.

Mit Genugtuung sieht man, daß der Verfasser nicht bloß erklären will, sondern daß es ihm darum zu tun ist, die großen Wahrheiten, die das Evangelium enthält, dem Leser nahezubringen. Als Beispiel können wir eine Bemerkung zu Matth. 1, 23 (die Weisagung vom Immanuel) anführen: „Wie es von Jesu Erdenleben gesagt wird, daß Gott beständig mit ihm war (Apost. 10, 38; Joh. 8, 29), so ist er selbst in Person die Gegenwart Gottes für uns Menschen; s. 2 Kor. 4, 6; Kol. 2, 9; Hebr. 1, 3; Joh. 14, 6, 9; Matth. 11, 4 f. (s. d.). Wiederum hat uns Luther diese neutestamentliche Erkenntnis vermittelt: „fragst du, wer er ist? Er heißt Jesus Christ, der Herr Zebaoth.“

In der Einleitung wird angenommen, daß eine besondere Quelle (Q) vorhanden war, worauf ein Teil unsers Evangeliums zurückzuführen ist. Doch wird zugegeben, daß die ganze Hypothese Q betreffend wackelig ist, und es wird bezweifelt, daß Q ein einheitliches, abgeschlossenes Buch war. Während der Verfasser durchaus konservativ sein will, sieht man doch mit Wehmut, daß er, wie die meisten zeitgenössischen prominenten Theologen, sich nicht zur frohen Gewißheit emporschwingen kann, daß die Heilige Schrift Gottes unfehlbares Wort ist, und daß er, der Vernunft zuliebe, annimmt, hier und da würden uns in diesem Evangelium Legenden überliefert (s. besonders S. 266). Sollten nicht die Vorgänge in Welt und Kirche eine ernste Mahnung sein an alle rationalisierenden Theologen, zurückzukehren zu dem majestätischen „Es steht geschrieben“?

W. Arndt

The Divine Inspiration of the Bible. By Arthur W. Pink. Published by Bible Truth Depot, Swengel, Pa. Printed by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 90 pages, 5×7½. Price: Paper, 65 cts.; cloth, \$1.00.

We have only one objection to this book, namely, that the author, in the chapter on “The Typical Significance of the Scriptures Declares Their Divine Authorship,” goes into the realm of speculation. The fact that an earnest Bible student sees certain interesting parallels between Old Testament and New Testament sections does not yet prove the inspiration, except when the Bible itself declares such a parallelism to exist. But apart from this one criticism we recommend this book very highly, for the author, in a fearless and convincing manner, presents evidence for the perennial freshness of the Bible, for the unmistakable honesty of the writers, for the sublime character of its teaching, for the

fulfilled prophecies of the Bible, for the wonderful unity of the Bible, for the marvelous influence of the Bible, for the miraculous power of the Bible, for its completeness, for its indestructibility, and for the inward confirmation of the veracity of the Scriptures. He has one entire chapter on "Verbal Inspiration," which alone is worth the price of the book. What the author says in the Introduction has been borne out in countless instances: "Grant that the Bible is a divine revelation and communication of God's own mind and will to men, and you have a fixed starting-point from which advance can be made into the domain of truth. Grant that the Bible is (in its original manuscripts) inerrant and infallible, and you reach the place where study of its contents is both practicable and profitable."

P. E. KRETZMANN

Recoveries in Religion. By Ralph W. Sockman, D. D. Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn. 284 pages, 5½×8½. Price, \$2.00.

Dr. Sockman sees the need of recovery in religion, as far as a liberal theologian can see it. And we, too, need to emphasize much of what he says. He hails "the repudiation of recent Liberalism." "The older Liberalism is regarded as too shallow." "The paths of progress are blocked by tired Liberals." "It is a matter of record that those religious groups which stress their extreme individual liberty are making little headway today" (p. 32). "Science stands repudiated as redeemer" (p. 212). While he believes in the social gospel, he utters the warning: "The crisis which our Protestant Christianity is facing today arises out of the fact that Christianity is shifting its center of gravity from the inner life to the social community (*The Christian Century*)" (p. 95). He does not quite agree with the writer who said: "The church is not attended today because it has nothing to offer which cannot be found in better form elsewhere" (p. 225). At the same time he castigates the preachers "who run their parishes quite as if there were no Holy Spirit" (p. 217), who "seek to attract hearers by announcing what the church has to offer, such as good music, cheering fellowship, interesting sermons" (p. 263), who, "to catch the public ear, draw on every best seller, fearing to stake their sermons on the Book of books" (p. 59). "Many a so-called successful city preacher lifts his eyes unto the balconies whence cometh his strength. If they be well-filled, he feels that the kingdom is coming" (p. 116). Dr. Sockman tells these preachers that "perhaps the pulpit might regain the public respect if the minister who realizes that he has no message on a given Sunday were to rise and frankly announce, 'Maybe next week, but not today'" (p. 254).

The remedy which is prescribed for these and the many other ills of the Church by the liberal doctor will not effect the cure. The liberal doctor does not think enough of the Bible. He calls it indeed "the Book of books," but he refuses to accept it as "verbally inspired" and "infallible" (p. 61). It is not the ultimate source of the saving truth. Spiritual knowledge and strength must come from man's experience. "Convincing religious authority is an authority that uses personal experience, or the process of rediscovering the truth about God in ourselves, as its organ and instrument" (p. 39). Does he believe in the deity of Jesus? "Jesus

made men aware of God. He had so completely surrendered himself to God that he felt the divine spirit had been surrendered to him" (p. 67). That is not a confession of the deity of Christ. In fact, Dr. Sockman goes so far as to write: "Yet, authoritative as the centuries have found Jesus to be, what are nineteen hundred years in the life of the race? Can we say that the Christ of Nazareth has given us the final wisdom? May not the future outgrow him?" (p. 70).—The Church is undernourished. Dr. Sockman sees that. "In many a parish earnest ministers flay their people with social and moral challenges, but do not feed their minds with sufficient spiritual food to sustain their *morale*" (p. 59). But he has no use for the old-fashioned Gospel. He puts it this way: "There is danger that in the current revolt against the tyranny of the physical sciences and the vogue of Liberalism religion may revert to obscure orthodoxy" (p. 37). The only remedy he knows of is the application of the Law. The specific is more practise of the social virtues. "Listen to Kagawa: 'Probably one reason why our Western friends do not understand redemption at the present moment is because of this lack of a full sense of human solidarity'" (p. 97).

Dr. Sockman is pastor of Christ Church (Methodist), New York, and Sunday morning preacher of the National Broadcasting Company.

TH. ENGELDER

The Clash. By Paul H. Andreen. MCMXXXVIII. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn. 152 pages, 5¼×8. Price, \$1.00. Order through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Just as soon as one reads the first chapter of this book, one will be bound to acknowledge that the author knows his subject and treats it with a warm sympathy. "The Clash" of which he speaks is that of the Church with various forces of our day and age, represented in the society in the midst of which the Church is trying to uphold the banner of the truth, of the salvation wrought by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. The trend of the whole book is given in the sentence: "No one acquainted with the facts of the history of Christianity will fail to admit the intensity of the battle when Christ's teachings clash with the selfishness of man on all sectors — educational, economic, social, and spiritual." (P. 4) The subject is treated in six chapters: A World in Conflict; The Church and the Social Order; The Church and World Peace; The Church To-day; The Present Crisis; The Church's Contribution to the Social Order. The paragraphs on birth control and on atheistic communism are alone worth the price of the book. It should be read by every pastor who wishes to be informed on present trends in the relation between the Church and the social order. P. E. KRETZMANN

The Rise and Growth of English Hymnody. By Harvey B. Marks, M. A. Introduction by H. Augustine Smith. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York. 288 pages, 8¼×5¼. Price, \$2.50. May be ordered through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

In recent years various writers in our country have essayed to make up for a long neglect of one of the important branches of English litera-

ture, English hymnody, following more or less in the footsteps of Dr. Louis F. Benson, who deserves the title of trail-blazer in this field. The book which the Rev. Harvey B. Marks here offers, presents the Anglican view-point. He sets high standards, and his judgments are sound. The difficult question "What is a hymn?" is carefully discussed in a satisfactory manner. We thoroughly agree with the author when he says: "It is much easier to say what is not a hymn than what is a hymn." That has been our own experience before classes at the Seminary. It is refreshing to read the author's verdict concerning "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere": "It is not much better than a song one might write and call 'Beautiful Isle of Nowhere.' It is a great pity that such a poor excuse for a hymn should become so popular with the unthinking multitude, because of its pleasing and sentimental type of music. It has been condemned alike by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and Protestant ministers as an unfitting song for the impressive office of the burial of the dead." On the other hand, it is disappointing to note that the author refers to Newman's "Lead, Kindly Light" as a hymn. It is inconsistent with his own standards. Newman himself did not consider it a hymn. Nor does it deserve that name for the reason that "it expresses the feelings or desire of many hearts," as that can hardly mean more than that such hearts are as unsettled in their religious convictions as Newman was when he wrote the words.

The material offered in this volume is divided into three parts. In the first, after devoting several chapters to the study of hymnody, different aspects of it, to the definition of a hymn, and the evaluation of hymns, the author gives a fair summary of ancient and medieval and German hymnody. In the second, he presents English hymnody from the early psalmody to the hymn in America. In the last part, he enters the present century and discusses the work of the leading hymnists. The closing chapters are on carols (including spirituals) and the musical setting of the hymns. Subject, authors', and first-line indices are in the rear. Each chapter concludes with a list of books for additional study. We recommend this book.

W. G. POLACK

God-Controlled Lives. By Sverre Norborg, Ph. D. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn. 150 pages, 5½×8. Price, \$1.00.

Dr. Norborg is professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota and lecturer in theology at Augsburg Theological Seminary. A prolific, though still young (and theologically still immature), writer, he is known (as the blurb says) by sixteen volumes, of which the most recent are *What Is Christianity?* and *Varieties of Christian Experience*. In *God-controlled Lives* he delineates the characters, sensibilities, and experiences of such persons as Simon Peter, Matthew, Jairus, Nicodemus, and other sinners of the New Testament, showing how Christ's coming into their lives resulted in sweet fruits of faith and Christian piety. He follows in a general way the simple method of expounding the texts which present the Biblical characters, adding, as he goes along, such lessons as the cases suggest. The "lives" are conceived as biographical

sermons, illustrating weighty practical truths which must still be observed by the modern follower of Jesus. It may be doubted whether the ordinary Christian will derive much benefit from reading the book; for the writer philosophizes more than he theologizes, and his paragraphs are directed to readers of college or at least high-school standing rather than to the common Christian folk. One great defect is lack of clarity as to the way of salvation.

J. THEODORE MUELLER

The Light in the Window. Funeral Sermons and Outlines by R. E. Golladay, A. M., D. D. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 119 pages, 5¼×7¾. Price, \$1.00. May be ordered through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Golladay of Columbus, O., is the well-known author of sermons on the pericopal texts and on the Catechism. In this little volume he submits twenty-two outlines for funeral addresses. The ideal he has striven for is the preaching of "Scriptural funeral sermons; taking a text and adhering to it; using only such biographical and incidental matter as may be illustrative, comforting, or otherwise useful." He has also striven in his large ministry (he has buried nearly seven hundred persons in one congregation) "not to preach on the same text in the same circle of relatives or friends within the space of several years." He adds this interesting remark: "More than once, after a service was begun, I changed my text and sermon because I saw in the audience those who had been present at a recent burial service. I was able to do this because I generally have the substance of several such texts, with an outline, pretty well in mind at all times." These printed outlines will prove of value in a busy ministry and in some difficult cases.

THEODORE GRAEBNER

The Lord's Prayer and Christian Life. By Prof. Martin Graebner. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 74 pages, 5¼×7¾. Price, 75 cts.

We are happy to be able to announce the appearance of this book. While its size is such that one can well understand why the author says on the page preceding the introduction: "This little book is not an exhaustive treatise on the Lord's Prayer, but represents a modest endeavor to set forth its chief implications for our sanctification," it is so stimulating that one is glad to read it and to ponder its contents. In dwelling on the various words and petitions of the Lord's Prayer, the writer correctly gives much attention to Luther's classic interpretation in the Small Catechism. After having stated and analyzed the thought as contained in the words of the Lord's Prayer and in Luther's exposition, Bible-texts are quoted in which the Scriptural evidence is presented. This, however, is not done in a mechanical manner, but discussion and proof are so interwoven that the argumentation gets to be live and interesting. Besides, the author does not forget the bearing which the contents of the Lord's Prayer has on our Christian life. In this manner the little volume becomes truly edifying to those who read it with care and in a devout spirit. May it find many readers!

W. ARNDT

How Can the Lutheran Churches Effectively Serve with Word and Sacrament the Great Plains Area of Today and Tomorrow? By Dr. T. F. Gullixson. The Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O. 27 pages, 6x9. Price, 15 cts.

We recommend this pamphlet to all our District Presidents, mission boards, and to the pastors in the stricken areas for careful study. The author offers a wealth of information and many practical suggestions toward a solution of the problems involved.

TH. LAETSCH

Does God Want You to Be a Lodge-Member? Tract No. 127. Concordia Publishing House. 19 pages, 3½x5½. Price: 5 cts.; dozen, 36 cts., and postage; 100, \$2.50, and postage.

These two tracts deserve to be widely read in our circles. Our members ought to be well informed on the lodge question, and Holy Communion ought to be held in much higher regard than statistics on attendance indicate. We recommend these tracts for mass distribution.

TH. LAETSCH

Goforth of China. By Rosalind Goforth. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 364 pages, 8¼x5½. Price, \$2.00.

A biography of the prominent Presbyterian missionary, who labored in the various parts of China from 1888 to 1936, written by his wife.

W. G. POLACK

What Should Admonish and Incite a Christian to Receive the Sacrament Frequently? By E. W. Koehler. Tract No. 128. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 32 pages, 4x6. Price: 8 cts.; dozen, 72 cts., and postage; 100, \$5.00, and postage.

The Multiplication of Usable Personalities. By C. F. Yaeger. Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church. 64 pages, 4¾x7.

This is a handbook on personal evangelism, personal soul-winning. While we have question-marked a number of statements, we recommend the booklet to our pastors for study and practical application.

TH. LAETSCH

Proceedings of the Sixty-First Convention of the Central District of the Ev. Luth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 99 pages, 6x9. Price, 28 cts.—
Nineteenth Convention of the Southern Illinois District. 71 pages. Price, 14 cts.

In the report of the Central District, Pastor Carl A. Eberhard discusses in an interesting manner the ever timely doctrine, of special importance in our day, of the inspiration of Holy Scripture. He brings out clearly the Scriptural doctrine, answers a number of objections current in our day, and shows the importance of this doctrine for our faith and life. The report of the Southern Illinois District offers a paper by President J. W. Behnken, D. D., on "Leadership in the Church," and a paper in the German language on the doctrine of justification by Prof. W. Albrecht. Both papers deserve attentive reading, prayerful study, and grateful practical application of the divine truths to our private and congregational life.

TH. LAETSCH

Legal Aspects of Christian Science. By I. H. Rubenstein. Crandon Press, Chicago. 33 pages, 5½×8½.

The author, a member of the Chicago bar, cites several court proceedings in which "the legal rights and remedies of Christian Scientists have been questioned and even denied." Since the pastor will attack Christian Science from an entirely different angle, this brief treatise has little value for him.

F. E. MAYER

BOOKS RECEIVED

From the Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Prophecy and the Tottering Nations. By Keith L. Brooks. 100 pages, 5×7½. Price, \$1.00.

Smoking and Other Habits. By Frank L. Wood, M. D. Price, paper, 25 cts.

From the Bible Institute Colportage Association, 843-845 North Wells Street, Chicago:

The Acts of the Apostles. With outlines, subdivisions, emphasized portions, and annotations, prepared by Norman H. Camp. 128 pages, 3×4¾.

From the Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn.:

My Lord the Shepherd Is a Westerner. By T. F. Gullikson, D. D., President Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. 36 pages, 5¼×7½. Price, 25 cts.

From the American Tract Society, 7 West 45th St., New York:

A Christian Layman's Handbook. By R. M. Kurtz, M. A. 72 pages, 4½×6½. Price, 50 cts.

From the Christian Action, Cincinnati, O.:

Studies in Christian Living. By James De Forest Murch. 112 pages, 3½×6. Price, 35 cts.

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